

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The Central Government has enacted the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (68 of 1986) to provide for better protection of the interest of the consumers. The relevant provisions of his Act are to be implemented by the Central Government as well as State Governments. The Act will be enforced after consulting State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Consumers' Protection Act, 1986

1205. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Consumers' Protection Act, 1986 has been implemented throughout the country as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 1st February, 1987; if so, with what results, indicating the improvements in supply of goods and services;

(b) whether Government propose to inform public through AIR/TV, press and literature as to whom to approach for their complaints; and

(c) whether Government also propose to open a centralised clearing house for consumers' complaints in every town and village in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The Central Government has enacted the Consumer protection Act, 1986. The statutory institutions conceived in the Act are to be set up by the Central and State Governments. As such, the Act will be enforced in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

(b) Government is making use of AIR/TV and news-media for creating consumer awareness and giving information regarding redressal of various consumer grievances.

(c) The States and Union Territories have been advised to make institutional arrangements for redressal of consumers' complaints. Central Government has no proposal to open a centralised clearing house for consumers' complaints. However, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides for inexpensive and speedy redressal machinery at the District, State and national level which could be within easy reach of the consumers.

#### Milk production under operation flood Projects

1206. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a frozen semen Bank set up in 1959 in Bihar at a cost of over Rs. 3 crores has been successful in increasing milk production as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' of dated the 1st February, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether increase in milk production has been estimated in OP-Flood Districts/ areas under Op-Flood-I,II,III and if so, the results thereof; and

(d) whether results under O.F. projects are better than non-O.F. areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Since the Frozen Semen Technology was not even in existence in the country during 1959 the question of setting up of a Frozen Semen Bank in Bihar in that year does not arise. However, a Frozen Semen Bank was set up under Indo-Danish bilateral collaboration Programme (DANIDA) in the year 1978 at Patna in Bihar with an external assistance of D. Kr. 1.73 million. The milk production in the State has shown

an increase from 1839 thousand tonnes in 1978-79 to 2330 thousand tonnes in 1984-85.

(c) and (d) No separate study has been conducted for milk production data in Operation Flood and non-Operation Flood areas.

**NCCF officers involved in bungling of controlled cloth**

**1207. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "Several Government officials in CBI net" which appeared in the 'Financial Express' of 11-9-1986 of Delhi edition;

(b) if so, the names of the officers of N.C.C.F. involved in this bungling of controlled cloth allocated to the State of Sikkim; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government against involved officers of N.C.C.F. under the Essential Commodities Acts/regulations pertaining to such controlled commodities which are heavily subsidised by Government and are meant for the benefit of weaker section of the society?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT):** (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The case has been referred to the C.B.I. for investigation.

**NCCF smuggling of rice**

**1208. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 183 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6-5-86 and state:

(a) what is the outcome of the report lodged by NCCF with the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bombay regarding the smug-

gling of 9,300 MTs of rice from Kakinada Port (A.P.) to Gulf country during 1982 in contravention of Export Trade Regulations then prevailing thereby depriving the country of the much needed foreign exchange worth Rs. 4.00 crores; and

(b) what are the reasons for not handing over this matter to the CBI for investigation instead of depending on NCCF whose *modus operandi* is to delay the things by referring the same to the Courts?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT):** (a) The NCCF has reported that in pursuance of the directive from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bombay, the CID Bombay Police has completed the investigation and has since submitted its report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bombay.

(b) On receipt of a complaint against the alleged irregularities, the Government of India separately referred the matter to the CBI for investigations. The CBI has reported that they have issued instructions to their Bombay Office to render necessary assistance to Bombay, CID in the investigations.

**Inadequate water and toilet facilities in Bhagwan Mahavir Vanasthali Park, New Delhi**

**1209. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament have written to Government regarding inadequate water and toilet facilities for the visitors and charging of exorbitant fees from them in the Bhagwan Mahavir Vanasthali Park in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the facilities in the Park?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.